

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of operating a computer network comprising:

5 invoking a server program residing on a network server from a network user station;

 retrieving a data file from a network server to a network user station;

 recording changes made to the data file in a change file located in user station storage;

10 upon completing the changes, transferring the change file to the network server; and

 modifying the data file on the network server based on the contents of the change file.

15 2. The method of claim 1, further comprising periodically transferring the contents of the change file to the network server.

 3. The method of claim 2, further comprising accumulating the contents of the periodically transferred change files in a master change file on the network server.

20 4. The method of claim 3, wherein modifying the data file on the network server comprises modifying the data file based on the contents of the master change file.

5. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

25 determining portions of the server program that are frequently invoked by the user station;

 copying the determined portions of the server program from the network server to local

30 storage of the network user station; and

upon subsequently invoking one of the determined portions, using the locally stored copy of the server program.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein determining frequently invoked portions of the server program includes recording page misses in a table in the user station storage.

7. The method of claim 5, wherein copying the determined portions of the server program to local storage comprises copying the determined portions in a non-volatile storage device of the user station.

8. A data processing network, comprising:

a network server including processor and storage wherein the network server storage contains a server program code and data file code; and

a network user station including processor and storage connected to the network server via a network medium;

wherein the user station includes code for invoking the server program, retrieving the data file from a network server, recording changes made to the data file in a change file located in user station storage, and transferring the change file to the network server upon completing the changes; and

wherein the network server includes code for modifying the data file on the network server based on the contents of the change file.

9. The system of claim 8, wherein the user station further comprises code for periodically transferring the contents of the change file to the network server.

10. The system of claim 9, wherein the server further comprises code for accumulating the contents of the periodically transferred change files in a master change file on the network server.

5 11. The system of claim 10, wherein code for modifying the data file on the network server comprises code for modifying the data file based on the contents of the master change file.

12. The system of claim 8, further comprising:

10 user station code for determining portions of the server program that are frequently invoked by the user station;

user station code for copying the determined portions of the server program from the network server to local storage of the network user station; and

15 code for using the locally stored copy of the server program upon subsequently invoking one of the determined portions.

20 13. The system of claim 12, wherein the code for determining frequently invoked portions of the server program includes code for recording page misses in a table in the user station storage.

25 14. The system of claim 12, wherein code for copying the determined portions of the server program to local storage comprises code for copying the determined portions in a non-volatile storage device of the user station.

15. A computer program product residing on a computer usable medium for reducing network traffic in a computer network, the computer program product comprising:

30 code means for invoking a server program residing on a network server from a network user station;

code means for retrieving a data file from a network server to a network user station;

code means for recording changes made to the data file in a change file located in user station storage;

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code means for transferring the change file to the network server upon completing the changes; and

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code means for modifying the data file on the network server based on the contents of the change file.

16. The computer program product of claim 15, further comprising periodically transferring the contents of the change file to the network server.

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17. The computer program product of claim 16, further comprising accumulating the contents of the periodically transferred change files in a master change file on the network server.

18. The computer program product of claim 17, wherein modifying the data file on the network server comprises modifying the data file based on the contents of the master change file.

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19. The computer program product of claim 15, further comprising:

determining portions of the server program that are frequently invoked by the user station;

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copying the determined portions of the server program from the network server to local storage of the network user station; and

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upon subsequently invoking one of the determined portions, using the locally stored copy of the server program.

20. The computer program product of claim 19, wherein determining frequently invoked portions of the server program includes recording page misses in a table in the user station storage.

21. The computer program product of claim 19, wherein copying the determined portions of the
5 server program to local storage comprises copying the determined portions in a non-volatile storage device of the user station.